



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

June 6, 2013

Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
900 Court St. NE, Room 178
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2858

Dear Co-Chair Bates, Co-Chair Nathanson, and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for the Primary Health Care Loan Forgiveness Program Fund, one component of the City of Portland's agenda in support of rural communities. We view this program as an important policy that benefits rural Oregon while collectively enhancing health and vitality across the state.

Rural Oregon continues to suffer from a lack of access to primary care. The scarcity of service creates hardship for rural communities and high demand on existing primary care physicians. Programs that incentivize physicians locating in rural Oregon help improve health, build community, and bolster economies.

We recognize that the state continues to operate with limited resources, but we consider the Primary Health Care Loan Forgiveness Program Fund one worthy of investment. We urge your support of House Bill 2858, which is important to the health and strength of rural communities. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner